

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1, 8, 13 and 15 have been amended to present the invention to the Examiner in a more effective manner. Claim 6 has been amended to correct an inadvertent drafting error without affecting claim scope.

Claims 1, 6-10, 12-13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as anticipated by Shikida (JP 2002-157095). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Shikida is directed to a printer system in which a client apparatus, when making a print request to a printer apparatus, sets in the printing data to be transmitted to the printer 1) the client's communication address and 2) a communication address inquiry request for the printer. Shikida, p. 1, lines 1-4 of [Solving Means] paragraph.

However, because items 1) and 2) are transmitted from a client to a printer only when *embedded in printing data in making a print request*, Shikida cannot transmit *independently of a print job* an address request command for requesting a network address of a printing apparatus to the printing apparatus as required by claims 1 and 8, nor transmit *independently of a print job* an IP address of a computer to a printing apparatus as required by claim 13. And for the same reason, a printer in Shikida cannot receive data *independently of a print job* that includes a command requesting a transmission of an address of a printing apparatus as required by claim 15.

Shikida also fails to disclose a determination portion that determines whether input data is or is not a print job as required by claim 6. The disclosure of Shikida at pp. 9 and 10 and step S307, cited by the Examiner for teaching this claimed feature, is directed to merely checking whether items 1) and 2) have or have not been set in received *print data*, not whether input data *is or is not a print job* as claimed.

Similarly, Shikida fails to disclose a determination portion that determines whether input data is a print job or an address request command as required by claim 12. The disclosure of

Shikida at pp. 9 and 10, cited by the Examiner for teaching this claimed feature, is directed - as explained above - to merely checking whether items 1) and 2) *have or have not been set* in received print data, not whether input data is *a print job or an address request command* as claimed.

Therefore, because Shikida fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, each and every element as set forth in claims 1, 6, 8, 12, 13 and 15, Shikida cannot anticipate claims 1, 6, 8, 12, 13 and 15, and claims depending thereon, under 35 USC 102.

Claims 2-5, 11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shikida in view of Mochizuki (US 2002/0001495). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the suggestions or motivations provided by the Examiner do not cure the deficiencies of Shikida (the 35 USC 102 art) as explained above.

In view of the above, a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772032500.

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Respectfully submitted,

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